विदेश व्यापार में गिरावट

2038. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वर्ष 1997-98 की तुलना में वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान् भारत, से किए गए विदेशी व्यापार में कांडला बंदरगाह, अहमदाबाद-कांडला और भुज विमान पत्तनों की प्रतिशतता में गिरावट आई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस भागीदारी में गिरावट आने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) इस भागीदारी को बढ़ाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री राम कृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) यद्यपि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मन्दी के कारण, भारत से हुए विदेश व्यापार में कुछ गिरावट आई थी तथापि कांण्डला पत्तन और अहमदाबाद पत्तन द्वारा भारत से किए गए विदेश व्यापार के योगदान की प्रतिशतता (रु० के रूप में) वृद्धि का रुख प्रदर्शित हुआ है, जैसाकि नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

(धनराशि लाख रु० में)

अवधि	निर्यात 'ए'	आयात 'बी'	कुल योग सी-ए-बी	कु०आ०वि०व्या० 'डी'	%शेयर इ-सी आफ डी
अप्रैल-नव० 97	27898.15	296375.54	575360.69	17356710.60	3.31
अप्रैल-नव० 98	288659.57	545939.49	834609.06	20784518.00	4.01

*—"डी" डीजीसीआई एंड एस के आंकड़ों के अनुसार समुद्री मार्ग एवं हवाई अड्डों से हुआ कुल विदेश व्यापार है।

अहमदाबाद पत्तन

(धनराशि लाख रु० में)

अवधि	निर्यात 'ए'	आयात 'बी'	कुल योग सी-ए-बी	कु०आ०वि०व्या० 'डी'	%शेयर इ-सी ऑफ डी
अप्रैल-नव० '97	7078.63	214741.77	221820.40	17356710.60	1.27
अप्रैल-नव० '98	15243.34	412310.85	427554.19	20784518.00	2.05

*—"डी" डीजीसीआई एंड एस के आंकड़ों के अनुसार समुद्री मार्ग एवं हवाई अड्डों से हुआ कुल विदेश व्यापार है।

भारतीय वायु पत्तन प्राधिकरण के अनुसार, कांण्डला-भुज हवाई अड्डों से अधिक कार्गो संबंधी संकार्य नहीं होते है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Rise in Tea Prices

2039. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea industry has set a record production target of 890 million kgs. during 1999 as against 865 million kgs. during 1998;

(b) if so, how the cost of tea continues to so far; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to bring down the prices of tea in view of the fact that tea falls in the category of "poor man's food"?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Production of tea during 1998 was 870.40 million kgs (Estimated) vis-a-vis target of 860 million kgs. The Tea Board has set a production target of 905 million kgs for the year 1999.

(b) After an initial rise of prices during mid 1997 which reached a peak of Rs. 91.80 per kg in Jan. 1998, the average price at all India auctions has come down to Rs. 67.57 per kg in Jan. 1999. Rise in the prices of Tea had been on account of shortfall in tea production in other producing countries like Kenya

coupled with higher domestic consumption and export demand for Indian Tea.

(c) In order to check the rise in prices of Tea the Government has taken various steps which include (i) directive of the Tea Board to the producers for strict compliance with the provisions of Tea Marketing (Control) Order, 1984 (ii) relaxation of policy regarding sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Export Oriented Units and Units in Export Processing (Free Trade Zones for a period of six months upto June, 1998 (iii) supply of Nivendan Tea to the consumers at cheaper prices etc.

Decline in Exports

2040. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have achieved target of exports of various products from the country;

(b) which are the major sectors where the exports have declined;

(c) the main reasons for the decline in exports;

(d) what steps Government have taken to support the balance of exports to imports; and

(e) whether Government have formulated any new policies to control the decline in exports and to protect the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HDGDE): (a) Against a provisional target of US $40800 million for 1998-99, the export value during April-November, 1998-99 was US $ 23074 million (including Computer Software export data from Electronics and Computer Sofotware Export Promotion Council) as per the provisional data from Directorate General of Commerical Intelligence & Statistics.

(b) According to provisional data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), during April-November, 1998-99, exports of agricultural and allied products, marine products, ores and minerals, leather and manufactures, footwear sport goods chemicals and related products, engineering goods electronics (hardware), project goods,.cotton yarn fabrics made-ups, man made textiles made ups, wool and woollen manufactures and Jute manufactures, carpets, cotton raw incl. waste and petroleum products have shown negative growth in dollar terms.

(c) Decline in the rate of exports have premarily been due to South East Asian Currency crisis and world wide recession.

(d) and (e) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumberated in the Exin Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote export through multilateral and bilateral intiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. The Government is also initiating action through several measures to facilitate investment in sectors with strong export potential, encourage diversification of India's export basket, address infrastructure short comings, improve export facilitation measures and thus enhance the overall competitiveness of Indian export. The Government is according high priority to exports and all necessary steps are being taken to put exports on high growth trajectory.

Escrow Accounts Facility

2041. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for granting Escrow Accounts Facility;

(b) the number of countries with which India has such acconting facility; and

(c) the number of business houses and individuals granted this facility during the last three years?